
GREAT LAWNS/GREAT LAKES

Volume 5, Issue 1

March 2006

Made possible through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County, Monroe County
Department of Health, and the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

Starting Off on the Right Foot

As we near the end of our Groundhog induced “six more weeks of winter” visions of sunshine and green lawns dance in our heads. When the snow melts we can assess the work that will need to be done to get the best lawn quality results. Flipping to the March and April pages in the “Homeowner’s Lawn Care and Water Quality Almanac” we can find some practical advice.

Take stock of the lawn and soil. Consider taking a soil sample if it has been 3 years since your last soil test. While you wait for the results, examine your lawn to determine if places need reseeding. Learn about the different types of grasses and which ones are most appropriate for the different use areas of your yard.

Complete a weed inventory. Can you live with a few dandelions, but the ground ivy needs to go? If so, the next step is to familiarize yourself with weed control options. There are many techniques, cultural and chemical, that can be used to keep weeds at bay. Understanding their limits will help determine which method will be most effective for you.

The most vigorous growth occurs during the cooler temperatures of spring. Doing a bit of homework now will set you on your way to a healthy, weed resistant lawn. To purchase a copy of the “Homeowner’s Lawn Care and Water Quality Almanac”, contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County at 461-1000 or <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/monroe>



Your Opportunity to Shine!

We know you’ve learned a lot about healthy lawn care, and we want to hear about it. Included with this issue of the Great Lawns/Great Lakes newsletter is a copy of the Home Lawn Survey. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to us at 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620 or via email at mcd25@cornell.edu.

If you would rather return the survey via email, you can download a copy from the Great Lawns/Great Lakes or the Stormwater Coalition website and email it back to us. Directions can be found on the web. We appreciate your participation in the Great Lawns/Great Lakes Program. Your lawn and our environment thank you too!

<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/monroe/environment/home.htm>

<http://www.thestormwatercoalition.org>

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE

Do you enjoy public speaking? Want to share your concern for the environment with others? If so, we want you to join our team! The GL/GL program is seeking individuals who would like to become a volunteer speaker. We can provide you with the information and training to present one of the GL/GL programs to groups you know. Contact Margo for details. 461-1000 x230 or mcd25@cornell.edu

Great Lawns/Great Lakes Goes Electronic

After 5 years of providing helpful information to a mailing list of 1,300 individuals, libraries, organizations, and neighborhood associations, the Great Lawns/Great Lakes newsletter is transforming. Beginning with the June 2006 issue, this quarterly newsletter will be available online at the websites listed above. We will no longer be mailing printed copies to our mailing list. We are happy to send you an email notice that a new issue is available. Contact Margo with your email address if you would like to take advantage of this handy reminder.

Give Back to your Community

Share your talents and give back to the community! We can help you organize a Day of Caring, Earth Day or Arbor Day service project that benefits your neighborhood and is fun too. Consider gathering some friends to adopt a nearby creek or stream through the Community Water Watch Program. Visit the stream a few times each year, collect basic data and notify us if your stream team sees some noticeable changes in quality.

Are tools and paint more your thing? Help protect our water by stenciling the words “Don’t Dump” next to the storm drains in your neighborhood. We’ll provide everything you need!

Be an outfall monitor. All those storm drains lead to a waterway. Find out where and what comes out. Do you have computer or GIS skills? Help your municipality map the storm drain outfalls.

There’s lots to be done! Contact Margo Bauer at 461-1000 x230 or mcd25@cornell.edu if you would like to help.

Mark your calendars- Upcoming Events

Community Water Watch Training

Become a steward of your local creek or stream. It’s easy and fun for adults, families or youth groups. Learn how the program works and how you can help.

- Sunday, May 21, Creative Themes Day Camp, Perinton, 1-3:30pm

For more information and to RSVP call Margo at 461-1000 x230 or mcd25@cornell.edu

Great Lawns/Great Lakes Presentations

The newest Great Lawns, Great Lakes information program, “Understanding Lawn Care Labels” debuts this spring. This program is designed for all who find the directions on labels confusing and would like more information on how to properly apply lawn care additives. The Traditional Great Lawns/Great Lakes Program is also making its rounds. Bring a friend and come visit us.

- Wednesday, April 12, Parma Town Hall. 7 pm.
- Saturday, April 29, Rush Library. 10:30 am.

Do you know of a group who would like a presentation? Contact Margo to Schedule a program. 461-1000 x230



Come one, come all, to the Stormwater Public Meeting

Everyone is encouraged to attend the annual public meeting to announce the progress made in the efforts to reduce stormwater pollution in Monroe County. It will take place on Thursday, April 27th from 7-9 pm at the Greece Town Hall. This is a great opportunity to learn about all the educational efforts in your community and ask questions. For more information contact: Louise Hartshorn (585)753-5063



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Monroe County

*Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County
provides equal program and employment opportunities*